

REMARKS

The Examiner has asserted that the patent application includes two patentably distinct inventions in respect of the groups of claims being drawn to a product and secondly, to a method of use of the product.. The claims of Group I have been elected have been elected as the invention to be examined in the present application.

Further, the Examiner asserts that the application claims directed to four patentably distinct species of the invention, being identified as Species I represented by Figures 1 - 4; Species II represented by Figures 5A and 5B; Species III represented by Figures 5C and 5D; and Species IV represented by Figures 6A - 6D. Applicant respectfully reminds the Examiner that there is only one independent claim (claim 1) remaining in the application, thus only one invention has been claimed and remains to be examined. The Examiner has provided no recitation of linking claims as is required by MPEP §809.3, and further indicates that no claims are generic. Given that claims 2 through 14 are dependent upon claim 1, and they thus subsume all of the limitations thereof, claim 1 is, by definition, generic.

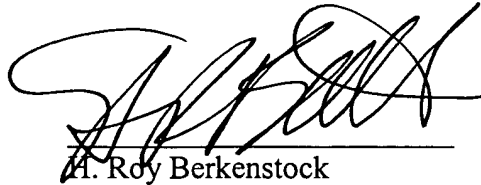
In the event that claim 1 is ultimately found not patentable, and no generic claim can be identified, Applicant will elect to prosecute claims drawn to Species I.

Applicant's attorney regrets that he did not return the Examiner's call however, the attorney has no recollection of personally talking with the Examiner, and can find no record of the call. Applicant's attorney does allow that the call may have been taken by a temporary assistant, and Applicant's attorney not identified.

It is asserted that all claims are in condition for allowance, and such disposition is hereby requested. Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference would expedite allowance,

the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned, and every effort will be made to promptly return the call.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'H. Roy Berkenstock', written over a horizontal line.

H. Roy Berkenstock

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